

## **N.C. 12 INFORMATION - 11/16/12**

High winds and overwash along N.C. 12 in Dare County are causing intermittent closures to four-wheel drive access on Pea Island. These closures often occur with very little advanced notice due to rapidly changing weather conditions. When a closure happens, NCDOT waits for conditions to improve before reopening the route to ensure motorist safety.

Based on current conditions, the route **may** only be open during low tide. To find out the status of the route, call 511, visit our [travel information webpage](#), or follow NCDOT on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).

When weather conditions are not causing closures, the four-wheel drive route is scheduled to be open from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. Because of hazardous driving conditions, Dare County first responders will escort drivers before dawn and after dusk when the road is accessible to traffic.

Drivers of four-wheel drive vehicles should expect a rough ride, which will include traveling over sand, damaged pavement and some water. On the sandy portions of the route, they will follow lane markers comprised of barrels, cones and/or flags.

NCDOT asks motorists to follow these important safety measures on the four-wheel drive access:

- Only drive four-wheel drive vehicles with a high ground clearance. Cross-over four-wheel drive vehicles that are lower to the ground may get stuck in the rugged terrain;
- If you drive at night, use extreme caution. There will be no lights staged along the route, so your vehicle's headlights will offer the only way for you to see;
- Drive slowly;
- Pay close attention to the temporary traffic signals; and
- All four-wheel drive vehicles are encouraged to lower tire pressure to minimize the chances of becoming stuck.

## **FERRY INFORMATION**

As long as N.C. 12 from the Bonner Bridge south to Rodanthe remains closed to traffic, the NCDOT Ferry Division will continue Ferry route from Stumpy Point to Rodanthe to operate its Emergency. The current schedule for this route is:

- Departing Stumpy Point at: 6 a.m., 8, 10, noon, 2 p.m., 4, 6, and 10; and

- Departing Rodanthe at 7 a.m., 9, 11, 1 p.m., 3, 5, 7, and 9.

The address for Stumpy Point is: 100 Log Storage Road, Stumpy Point, NC 27978.

The address for Rodanthe is: 23170 Myrna Peters Road, Rodanthe, NC 27968.

Essential commodities and materials get priority, as determined by Dare County Emergency Management. These priorities will receive an orange pass at the terminals. Residents will also be given priorities on weekdays. They will get a white pass when they show a proper Hatteras Island driver license.

Wait times at this route can vary and be lengthy at times. Please be patient and be prepared to wait. Bring water and snacks, as this route is only used for **emergency** events, and there are no terminal facilities available. To help you gauge the amount of traffic waiting to ride, visit the live webcams [Dare County](#) has stationed at [Rodanthe](#) and [Stumpy Point](#). The cameras cannot show priority order, but they can offer a real-time look at number of vehicles in line.

Wind direction and speed can affect the water levels in this area. Winds from the northeast can cause low water levels, which could suspend operations. Please keep advised of the weather conditions when you travel. For the most up-to-date ferry information, call 800-293-3779 (BY-FERRY) and press 1, or follow us on [Twitter](#). Hatteras-Ocracoke ferry is running every other hour. NE winds can affect Hatteras Inlet by causing shoaling in the shallow passage. Sometimes tides and wind direction can cause cancellation of departures at this route. The current schedule is:

- Departing Hatteras at 6 a.m., 8, 10, noon, 2 p.m., 4, 6, 8, 10 and midnight; and
- Departing Ocracoke at 5 a.m., 7, 9, 11, 1 p.m., 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11.